

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1870.

THE DEBT AND TAXES.

Even month, the Secretary of the Treasury issues a statement of the condition of the public debt and the treasury which shows a steady, rapid and triumphant progress in the direction of a reduction of the burden upon our shoulders. He also shows a large amount of the government bonds purchased with the surplus in his hands, which amount is almost equal to that by which the debt has been reduced during the past thirteen months. These amounts of bonds is held by him as a sinking fund for a further reduction, until it is otherwise ordered by Congress. The amount of the annual reduction of the debt, taking last year as the standard, is between eighty and a hundred millions of dollars; that is, the country is saving and paying in the shape of heavy taxation, nearly a hundred million dollars more than is needed to pay the expenses of the government and the interest on the debt.

No doubt we are all rejoiced in one sense to see such rapid progress made in clearing ourselves from the public debt; but the inquiry is, not, whether what good does it do us personally, at present.

As our expenses diminish, and as our revenues increase, and as our expenditure

shows an annual surplus, why is not a large portion of that surplus devoted to reduce the oppressive burdens of taxation, or in other words, why are not our taxes reduced, and our revenue system adjusted so as to produce just enough to meet our actual expenses, and to pay off a moderate sum annually on our debt?

The committee reported an order directing the State Board of Agriculture to investigate the whole system of management of the several agricultural societies, and report the results of their investigations to the next Legislature.

The hearing on the Hartford and Erie railroad has continued with daily sessions of the committee. The Attorney General having been instructed by the Legislature to appear for the State in this hearing, has made it very thorough and damaging to some of the managers of the Road. He made his argument against the petition last week.

The license bill came up in the Senate on Tuesday, according to assignment, and several amendments were offered and rejected after earnest debate. The subject was further postponed to Wednesday.

The proposed amendments to the constitution providing for a term of three years for the office of Senator, and for changing the terms of office of the representatives, and for a redistricting of the state, have been rejected in the House.

CONGRESS.

The Senate has debated in detail the deficiency bill, and passed it after making amendments adding a million and a half dollars to it. The Georgia bill has again laid over. The expedition of a further grant of public lands to the Northern Pacific railroad has been discussed. The joint resolution declaratory of the meaning and intention of the existing laws relative to the income tax, has been debated in the Senate. The resolution simply continues for the present the tax on salaries and dividends, and omits all reference to the income tax.

It is intimated that some changes are contemplated in the British cabinet, and that there will be a change in the speakership of the House of Commons.

By the Suez canal the English are getting cotton from Bombay in forty-five days; the usual time is ninety.

The annual boat race between Oxford and Cambridge universities took place last week, and the Cambridge was victorious. The race was over the same ground on the Thames, as rowed over by Harvard and Oxford last summer. Cambridge won the race for the first time for a number of years, making the time twenty minutes and a half.

The Emperor of the political world is not at all satisfied. The Emperor and the cabinet decided to submit the new order of things in the shape of propositions to the people for their approval. No crisis has taken place in his present.

The Emperor is reported to have had a brief illness, but has recovered.

The strike among the miners at La Crotou continued, and it is apprehended that all the miners in the valley of the Loire will join in the strike. Twenty-five workers at La Crotou have been sentenced for taking part in the shaming of a tax which was inequitable in its operations.

Mr. Conkling said that when the proposal, which, in the language of the British statesman, "was well calculated to produce a nation of laws." It was a tax equitable in theory but demoralizing in practice. He hoped the present bill would be a finality in his opinion.

The members of Congress seem not to appreciate the sentiment and demands of the people on these vital points. There has not been a single measure introduced to meet the requirements of the country, except perhaps a half way modification of the customs tariff. Meanwhile the press all over the land, the true representative of public opinion, has been shouting for the abolition of the national credit. First and chief should be the abolition of the odious income tax, and some of the other iniquitous taxes under our internal revenue, which necessitate the employment of army of office holders, and some of which scarcely pay the expenses of collection, taking the country through.

These taxes are contrary to the genius of our institutions, and from their iniquitous nature are humiliating and unworthy of a free and self governing people to submit to.

Mr. Sumner said as the income tax had been referred, he could say nothing about its being established.

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of having died a natural death, he hoped the Chairman of the Finance Committee would not attempt to re-establish it.

We have had a letter from a gentleman who has a son in the British cabinet, and he is in mind that the country must be reduced. He thought the cry of "down with taxes," would have a good beginning in the shaming of a tax which was inequitable in its operations.

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The Poet's Corner.

For the Massachusetts Ploughman.

TOO LATE.

Are you seeking your violet under the snow?
It withered far back in the spring;
Its spirit long languished in lingering woe,
Then softly, forgotten, took wing.

But I loved it, my violet, why is it dead?
And how could it leave me to mourn?

But I loved it, and left it with the garden rose red.

But I loved it, my flower, alone.

I cannot believe it, is cannot be so,

For I am not dead, 'Tis untrue;

My spirit would follow where'er it might go,

Would follow my violet.

You deserted it, cruelly crushing its pride;

I never forgot it a day; or I should have died,

If I had forgot where it grew.

But your violet, no, it could never forget,

And wandered, and died in despair.

To the east to revive it with tears warm and gay,

Back to the roses so fair.

THE MUSIC OF LABOR.

The lover of the ploughman's whistle,

The reaper's cheerful song,

The driver's oft-repeated shout,

Sprouting his stock in the sun,

The busier the toil, the man

As he hies him to the town,

The halloos from the tree top

As the ripened fruit comes down,

The busy sound of threshing,

As they cleave the ripened grain,

The husker's joyful shout of piee,

"Neath the sun, the day on the plain,

The kind of day,

From Chamber's Journal.

THE FATAL BOUQUET.

What may be the ordinary price of such a bouquet as a bridegroom generally carries to assist her in the sometimes difficult duty of appearing at her wedding? I cannot say, but the price is even less than what it will be to me dear, as we shall see. Never, O, my friends, make rash promises; or, if you do, don't keep them, and in all days it will be no good as your word. It was many years ago that I was obliged to be present at no less melancholy a ceremony than a wedding and my wife had a cloud over all my substance. The summer; Zephyr and Aurora had been joined together in holy matrimony; the cake had been cut; the champagne had flowed; the bride had given up her ring; the pair; the slipper had been thrown; the tears had been shed; and everybody was as dry as ditch water. And I sat and talked with the bridegroom, and the bride's maids. Whether a bridegroom must carry his bouquet as Arabella's was then carried, I cannot tell (for I now live much out of the world), here were carried by me, in a basket, a box of a sort of mucilage, in which were stuck the sweetest of flowers. What we said, I do not (fortunately) recollect; but the rite largely performed, and the bridegroom, in a single instant, so that eyes were more than usually eloquent, voices were more than usually soft and low, and conversation was more than usually confidential, and, I am afraid, absurd. At last, however, he brought it to me, and I brought to pass that Arabella said playfully, "Very well, then, one condition."

"That condition, exactly as I do, and that you take it with you wherever you go to-day."

"One very easy condition," I rejoined; "I am only too anxious to oblige you."

All that followed I cannot remember; but my ears, when I think of the scene, are once more filled with a sound, as of a low, but plaintive sighing, or, as some say, the sound of my life; when I think of the scene feel once more the touch of a something softer than velvet. And that something had four fingers and a thumb?"

It was a most prettish bunch of blossoms, a dimpled rose, and a hysterical giggle.

"Well, I took the bouquet, and I hung it by the ring on my little finger, and all at once I had said that I accepted the conditions; glad; now I knew that I had spoken in my haste, and that most men who speak in such a manner are liars.

Arabella, however, did not demand an impression that she was in a position to make.

"Mind, I shall see you to-morrow,

and shall require a full, true, and particular account of all that befalls my bride."

I replied, "I am sorry, say that you are, incompletely, and with a hysterical giggle.

My trials began as soon as I was outside the door, for a sympathetic calman at once took me aside, and, with a smile, said,

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"I had said that I accepted the conditions; glad; now I knew that I had spoken in my haste, and that most men who speak in such a manner are liars.

Arabella, however, did not demand an impression that she was in a position to make.

"Mind, I shall see you to-morrow,

and shall require a full, true, and particular account of all that befalls my bride."

It was a most prettish bunch of blossoms, a dimpled rose, and a